

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
a primary game;
at least one non-qualifying outcome in the primary game; and
at least one qualifying outcome in the primary game, wherein a player qualifies for a multi-player tournament to be held in the future when the player achieves the qualifying outcome, wherein the tournament is selected by the player from a plurality of different tournaments; and
a payable for said primary game, said payable including: (a) a first average payout percentage greater than zero and less than one-hundred which accounts for all of the non-qualifying outcomes in the primary game, and (b) a second average payout percentage greater than zero and less than one-hundred which accounts for at least a portion of a value guaranteed to be won in said tournament.

Claim 2 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the primary game is a slot game.

Claim 3 (original): The gaming device of Claim 2, wherein the qualifying outcome is a qualification symbol obtained on an active payline.

Claim 4 (original): The gaming device of Claim 2, wherein the qualifying outcome is a plurality of qualification symbols obtained on an active payline.

Claim 5 (original): The gaming device of Claim 2, wherein the qualifying outcome is a plurality of qualification symbols displayed within a display device in a scattered arrangement.

Claim 6 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of non-qualifying outcomes.

Claim 7 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the primary game is a video poker game.

Claim 8 (original): The gaming device of Claim 7, wherein the qualifying outcome is a predetermined winning combination of a plurality of cards in said video poker game.

Claim 9 (original): The gaming device of Claim 7, which includes a qualification symbol, and wherein the qualifying outcome is a winning combination of a plurality of said cards in combination with said qualification symbol.

Claim 10 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the primary game is a video blackjack game.

Claim 11 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the primary game is a video keno game.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the tournaments ~~is~~are selected from the group consisting of: a slot machine tournament; a poker tournament; a blackjack tournament; a keno tournament; a raffle; and a lottery.

Claim 13 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, including a payout percentage, said payout percentage set relative to a cost of the tournament.

Claim 14 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein a minimum wager in the primary game is required to qualify for the tournament.

Claim 15 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a printer for printing a tournament entry when the qualifying outcome is achieved by the player.

Claim 16 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein a hand-pay state is entered when the qualifying outcome is achieved by the player.

Claim 17 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of qualifying outcomes, wherein the player qualifies for the multi-player tournament when the player achieves one of the qualifying outcomes.

Claim 18 (original): The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the qualifying outcome includes a combination of at least two predetermined outcomes in the primary game.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
a primary game;
a triggering event in the primary game;
a bonus game triggered by said triggering event;
at least one non-qualifying outcome in the bonus game; and
at least one qualifying outcome in the bonus game, wherein a player qualifies for a multi-player tournament to be held in the future when the player achieves the qualifying outcome, wherein the tournament is selected by the player from a plurality of different tournaments; and
a paytable for said primary game and said bonus game, said paytable including (a) a first average payout percentage greater than zero and less than one-hundred which accounts for all winning outcomes in the primary game and non-qualifying outcomes in the bonus game, and (b) a second average payout percentage greater than zero and less than one-hundred which accounts for at least a portion of a value guaranteed to be won in said tournament.

Claim 20 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, which includes a plurality of non-qualifying outcomes.

Claim 21 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the bonus game is a slot game.

Claim 22 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the bonus game is a video poker game.

Claim 23 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the bonus game is a video blackjack game.

Claim 24 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the bonus game is a video keno game.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the tournaments ~~is~~ are selected from the group consisting of: a slot machine tournament; a poker tournament; a blackjack tournament; a keno tournament; a raffle; and a lottery.

Claim 26 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein a minimum wager is required to qualify for the tournament.

Claim 27 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, which includes a printer for printing a tournament entry when the qualifying outcome is achieved by the player.

Claim 28 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein a hand-pay state is entered when the qualifying outcome is achieved by the player.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the qualifying outcome includes a combination of at least two combinations of outcomes in the ~~primary~~ bonus game.

Claim 30 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the bonus game includes a plurality of player selectable selections and wherein the qualifying outcome is associated with at least one selection.

Claim 31 (original): The gaming device of Claim 19, wherein the bonus game includes a player offer acceptance type game and the qualifying outcome is associated with one of a plurality of offers made to the player.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method for providing a tournament entry in association with play of a gaming device, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a controller;
- (b) storing at least one non-qualifying outcome within the controller;
- (c) storing at least one qualifying outcome within the controller;
- (d) randomly producing the qualifying outcome; and
- (e) providing the tournament entry to the player achieving the qualifying outcome for the tournament wherein the tournament is selected by the player from a plurality of different tournaments, and wherein a payable including a first average payout percentage greater than zero and less than one hundred accounts for each said non-qualifying outcome and a second average payout percentage greater than zero and less than one hundred accounts for a value guaranteed to be won in said tournament.

Claim 33 (original): The method of Claim 32, which includes the step of printing the tournament entry when the player achieves the qualifying outcome.

Claim 34 (original): The method of Claim 32, which includes the step of selecting at least one tournament to be held on a predetermined day in the future.

Claim 35 (original): The method of Claim 32, which includes the step of providing an additional monetary award to the player when the player obtains the qualifying outcome.

Claim 36 (original): The method of Claim 32, which includes the step of setting a payout percentage for the gaming device based on a cost of the tournament.

Claim 37 (original): The method of Claim 32, wherein the qualifying outcome is adapted to be produced in a primary game.

Claim 38 (original): The method of Claim 32, wherein the qualifying outcome is adapted to be produced in a bonus game.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A tournament comprising: a plurality of tournament gaming devices adapted to be played by a plurality of contestants, said contestants qualifying to participate in said tournament by achieving a qualifying outcome on one of a plurality of qualifying gaming devices which enables the player to select said tournament from a plurality of different tournaments, each said qualifying gaming devices capable of producing said qualifying outcome and a plurality of non-qualifying outcomes; and at least one prize awarded to one of the contestants which play the tournament gaming devices, wherein each said gaming device has a payable having a first average payout percentage greater than zero and less than one hundred which accounts for the plurality of non-qualifying outcomes and a second average payout percentage greater than zero and less than one hundred which accounts for a value guaranteed to be won in the tournament.

Claim 40 (original): The tournament of Claim 39, wherein the tournament gaming devices are slot machines.

Claim 41 (original): The tournament of Claim 39, wherein the tournament gaming devices are video poker gaming machines.

Claim 42 (original): The tournament of Claim 39, wherein a theme of the tournament is related to the theme of the qualifying gaming devices.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A gaming device comprising:
a display device;
a primary game;
a plurality of reels in said primary game;
a plurality of symbols on the plurality of reels including at least one qualification symbol on at least one of the reels;
at least one non-qualifying outcome involving the plurality of symbols; ~~and~~
and at least one qualifying outcome involving the plurality of symbols, wherein a player qualifies for a tournament when the player achieves the qualifying outcome; and wherein the tournament is selected by the player from a plurality of different tournaments; and
a payable for said primary game, said payable including (a) a first average payout percentage greater than zero and less than one-hundred which accounts for all of the non-qualifying outcomes, and (b) a second average payout percentage greater than zero and less than one-hundred which accounts for at least a portion of a value guaranteed to be won in said tournament.

Claim 44 (original): The gaming device of Claim 43, wherein the qualifying outcome is at least one qualifying symbol displayed on an active payline.

Claim 45 (original): The gaming device of Claim 43, wherein the qualifying outcome is a plurality of qualification symbols displayed on an active payline.

Claim 46 (original): The gaming device of Claim 43, wherein the qualifying outcome is a plurality of qualification symbols displayed within a display device in a scattered arrangement.

Claim 47 (original): The gaming device of Claim 43, wherein the tournament is selected from the group consisting of: a slot machine tournament; a poker tournament; a blackjack tournament; a keno tournament; a raffle; and a lottery.

Claim 48 (original); The gaming device of Claim 43, which includes a payout percentage which accounts for a cost of the tournament.